



Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Financial Examiner's report for the above mentioned period.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name: Skye and Lochalsh Environment Form

Charity No: SC040820

Address of Principal Office: The Old Police Station, Isleornsay, Isle of Skye
IV43 8QR

Current Trustees (elected on 19th July 2018):

Eileen Armstrong (re-elected)
David Ashford (re-elected)
Roger Cottis (re-elected)
Lindsay Thatcher (elected after the period)

Trustees who served in the period:

Eileen Armstrong
David Ashford
Roger Cottis
Louise Love
James Merryweather
John Phillips
Mike Taylor

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution:

The Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 4th September 2013. It is governed by its SCIO Constitution which was adopted on 18th November 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets at least thrice annually, consists of the charity's Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual Members' Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than nine elected Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt a further three Trustees if they consider it would

be in the interests of the charity to do so. Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the charity.

Management:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Secretary.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes:

To be a forum for members of the public and organisations in or associated with Skye and Lochalsh in order to promote and care for the landscape and biological diversity of natural and cultural habitats throughout for the benefit of present and future generations and to promote awareness, enjoyment, research, understanding and sustainable use of the Area's natural and cultural environment and biodiversity.

Activities:

Several Members moved and sorted important documents and artefacts inherited by SLEF following the death of Andrew Currie. He was a leading light in Skye conservation and represented the Nature Conservancy Council. A vast number of botanical specimens which he collected were archived and checked before being transported to the Botanical Society of Scotland in Edinburgh. His four large herbarium cabinets found new homes with an Orkney museum (2), a well-known Skye artist and a young biologist in Lochalsh.

As part of the Annabel's Nature Project, four Members visited Sleat Primary School for some seashore instruction and competition. An account of seashore life was written and illustrated with sketches. There were two outdoor local shore visits during May followed by the judging of contributions in June. Prizes were donated and given to the best three contributions from the children. The event raised awareness and was well received by both the children and teachers.

Three Members co-ordinated a community awareness initiative of the detrimental effects of salmon farming in a marine environment. A book written in 2013 was kept available on Amazon to provide best current scientific knowledge enabling people to understand see the evidence. The efforts of SLEF Members over the years were recognised when thirteen coastal and several communities spaced along the west coast from Arran to Fair Isle formed a cohesive group - The Coastal Communities Network, Scotland - including Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland (S&TCS) to lobby the Scottish Parliament for better environmental protection. A petition launched by S&TCS provoked a major Parliamentary Inquiry into the effects of salmon farming on the marine environment. SLEF members were also involved with numerous other petitions, consultations and media events that have helped raise public and Scottish Government awareness of additional problems with salmon aquaculture (besides pollution, pests and diseases in the marine environment), including poor fish welfare with high mortalities, dangerous and anti-social transportation and disposal of dead fish, shooting of seals and the harmful impacts of acoustic deterrent devices on cetaceans.

At the level of the South Skye Seas Initiative (SSSi), three Members secured a donation to provide underwater cameras to assist in recording habitats and species in Lochs, Eishort, Slapin and Scavaig. The initiative will gather support from the

communities in each area as well as SNH to record and collate the various habitats and species in order to better understand their importance and inform any future planning decisions.

A shore watch site was set up at Armadale by the Whale & Dolphin Conservation assisted by SSSI but the ten minutes sessions were not been well attended.

Several Members contributed illustrated talks accompanied by field trips on a variety of natural history subjects.

Approved by the Trustees on 16th October 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



David Ashford
Secretary